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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

C1 IPHC Regulations Proposal
December 2014

DIRECTOR

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December 4, 2014

Mr. Dan Hull, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Dan:

The International Pacific Halibut Commission completed the Interim Meeting this week and during the meeting it reviewed the IPHC Regulation Proposal Submission Forms that it has received to date. One of the proposals received recommends changes to the Area 3A sport charter regulations. As such, we are providing the proposal to you for your review process.

Sincerely,



Bruce M. Leaman, Ph.D.
Executive Director

IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: Retainment of first 29" or less fish

Year Proposed For: 2015

Submission Information (Please print or type)

Name: James Howe

Affiliation: Charter Deckhand in South central 3A location

Address:

City: Homer State/Prov: Alaska Postal/ZIP Code: 99603

Telephone: __ Fax: _____ Email: Howe45@gmail.com

Signature: James Howe

1. What is the definition and objective of the proposal?

Definition: Absolute retainment of the first 29" or less fish that is caught during a south central 3A halibut chartered trip.

Objective: To decrease throwback of fatally injured fish. When a person's first 29" or less fish is immediately obtained (bagged) ensures that less injured fish will be returned to the sea.

Other: Second fish will still remain of any size.

- Catch and release anglers will be limited to 4 to 6 caught and released fish of any size.
- Catch and release anglers are limited to one fish of any size if they change their position during a trip.

2. Impacts: Describe who you think this proposed change might affect (include fishers, processors, agencies, and the public).

2a. Who might benefit from the proposed change?

Benefits: Benefits conservation of the halibut fishery due to reduction of fatally thrown back fish. More than 60% of customers returned MULTIPLE fish that were not EXACTLY 29 inches. This proposal ensures that there is no opportunity to throwback 27" or even 28 3/4" fish. This not only promotes less injured fish but that a customer will walk with at least one fish if they only catch one 29" or less fish during a chartered trip, thus benefiting the customer.

Customers that respect preservation regulations of the halibut fishery should be proud that they are helping maintain the long tradition of halibut chartering and the livelihood of many people. This in itself is a beneficial and rewarding awareness all anglers should share.

More fish in the sea means reproduction and return each year for charter and commercial fisherman alike.

2b. who might suffer hardships or be worse off?

Current regulations of area 3A states that one of two fish kept must be of 29" or less. This proposal would not affect the customers' bag limit since they are required to stay within size limitations.

2. Are there other solutions to the problem described above? If so, why were they rejected?

Perhaps another solution may be to extend the size limit so that instead of keeping the first 29" or less fish customers must keep a fish under 15 pounds. Most half day and full day fish are less than fifteen pounds so this would still ensure less thrown back fish.

Please attach any other supporting materials. All items submitted by **October 31, 2014** will be considered at the IPHC Annual Meeting. ***Remember to include contact information and signature.***